

**Island County Board of Health
Regular Meeting - Monday, December 19, 2011
Minutes**

DUE TO THE UNAVAILABILITY OF RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR TODAY'S MEETING, MINUTES ARE IN HARD COPY FORMAT ONLY. THERE IS NO AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING.

Members Present: Commissioners Angie Homola and Kelly Emerson; Anne Tarrant, Whidbey General Hospital Commissioner; Captain Susan Lichtenstein, MSC, USN, Ex-Officio Member; and, Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board.

Members Absent: Commissioner Helen Price Johnson; Jim Slowik, Mayor of Oak Harbor.

Call to Order: Commissioner Kelly Emerson agreed to serve as Acting Chair in Commissioner Price Johnson's absence and called this Regular Meeting of the Island County Board of Health to order at 1:20 p.m.

Additions or Changes to the Agenda: There were no requests for additions or changes to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: The Acting Chair called for the approval of the minutes of the November 19, 2011 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Homola asked for a clarification to the minutes in the paragraph titled "Appointment of 2012 Board of Health Chair". She asked that the description include: "Commissioner Homola asked if Commissioner Emerson would like to serve as Chair. Commissioner Emerson indicated that she was not interested in serving as Chair." The wording then resumed with: "Commissioner Homola expressed a willingness to serve as Chair." Member Anne Tarrant moved for approval of the minutes with the requested wording clarification. Commissioner Homola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Input or Comments: The Chair invited members of the public who wished to provide input or make comments to indicate their wish to do so. There were no requests to comment.

Reschedule of January 16, 2012 and February 20, 2012 Board of Health Meetings: Due to date conflicts with federal holidays with both January 2012 and February 2012 regular meeting dates, the Board agreed to reschedule both meetings to Special Sessions to be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 and Tuesday, February 21, 2012. Both Special Sessions will be held at the usual 1:15 p.m. meeting time and in the Commissioner's Hearing Room (B-102) in the Court House Annex Building.

Presentation – On-SiteRME Software: Jill Wood, Environmental Health Director, introduced Joe Laxson, Environmental Health Specialist and staff to the Onsite Sewage System (OSS) Inspection Program. Joe described the current process which involves completion of an OSS Evaluation form completed by a Maintenance Service Provider (MSP) and submitted by mail or hand delivery to Island County Public Health. Upon receipt, that form is reviewed for completeness and then staff enters the information into the Paladin database. Island County Public Health has received almost 5,000 inspection forms to date. Out of those 5,000 inspections, less than 200 were done by homeowners directly.

OnlineRME software offers on-site professionals the opportunity to enter and submit inspections online for a \$1.99 submission fee. The on-site professional, the public, and Health Department staff will all have instant access to that information online providing convenience, efficiency, and online tools. Several other counties, including Kitsap, King and Tacoma/Pierce, are using OnlineRME. Although computer access will be a challenge for a few on-site professionals, surveying the professional community concluded that there was overall majority support for going with the online program. Island County will not incur a direct cost for this program. A Department of Health grant will allow Island County Public Health to subsidize the inspection submission fee in 2012.

Commissioner Homola noted that she thought it was critical to inspect and maintain our septic systems but wanted to be sure that the system be efficient. She liked that On-SiteRME would interface with our other County databases.

Contracts: Keith Higman presented contracts to the Board for their consideration:

1. Department of Ecology – Site Hazard Assessment
Contract No. G1200167
Contract Amount: \$ 82,400
2. Department of Health – 2012-2014 Consolidated Contract
Contract No. C16886
Contract Amount: \$ 603,503
3. Department of Ecology – Coordinated Prevention Grant
Contract No. G1200231
Contract Amount: \$ 138,885.33
4. Group Health Cooperative – Medical Services
Contract No. HD-14-11
Contract Amount: \$ Fee for service

Commissioner Homola moved that contracts be approved as presented. Member Anne Tarrant seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Legislative Updates: Keith Higman told the Board that the State Legislative special session concluded on December 16th and the \$2 Billion shortfall target was only reduced by \$489 Million. The Legislature will wait to address the balance of the shortfall when they come back into regular session in the New Year. Funding important to Public Health: 1) MVET backfill; 2) Local Community Development Funds (LCDF); and, 3) '5930' Blue Ribbon Commission funds were all spared in this first round. All the current contract renewals are for shortened periods as funding is not yet allocated.

Member Anne Tarrant shared concerns about HB2130 for cost based reimbursement. Whidbey General Hospital is looking at an operating shortfall of \$1.2 Million and should this bill be enacted, it will be debilitating to rural healthcare delivery. Ms. Tarrant invited Board Members to let the Legislators know about the potential impact. Keith Higman reminded the Board that Whidbey General Hospital is a critical access facility and cannot turn away non-paying individuals. It is imperative that the hospital receives cost based reimbursement.

Health Department Report: Keith Higman advised the Board that he had received a resignation from Carrie McLachlan, Assessment & Community Development Supervisor, who will be joining Snohomish County. Ms. McLachlan supports the Community Health Advisory Board and is responsible for the Health Department's strategic planning, community health assessment and other community process.

Keith announced that Doug Kelly had been offered and accepted the Hydrogeologist position. He will start with Island County on February 1st.

Adjourn: There being no further business before the Board, Acting Chair Emerson adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Health will be a Special Session held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 1:15 p.m. in the Commissioner's Hearing Room (B102) in the Court House Annex Building.

Submitted: _____
Roger S. Case, MD
Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 17th day of January 2012
ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Angie Homola, Board Chair